

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00373 071518Z

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01

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O P 070940Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3405

AMCONSUL LUANDA

DOD WASHDC

USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 373

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DAR ES SALAAM ADDED AS ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR USS BROWNSON AND
USS NEW

REF: (A) LISBON 1950; (B) LOURENCO MARQUES 352; (C) LOURENCO
MARQUES A-037 (NOTAL); (D) LOURENCO MARQUES 194 (NOTAL);
(E) LOURENCO MARQUES 256 (NOTAL)

1. ANNUAL U.S. POLICY ASSESSMENT FOR MOZAMBIQUE (REF C) GIVES
ENTIRE BACKGROUND OF SPECIFIC REASONING RE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON FUTURE U.S. DESTROYER VISITS. HOPE EMBASSY WILL RECEIVE
IT SOON.

2. BASIC POINT IN THIS CASE IS THAT UNTIL INDEPENDENCE
MOZAMBIQUE (TRANSITIONAL) GOVERNMENT UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY
AVOIDABLE POLICY DECISIONS WHICH INVOLVE EXERCISE OF PORTU-
GUESE SOVEREIGNTY AND WHICH WOULD COMMIT FRELIMO TO FUTURE
FOREIGN POLICY LINE. IN POLICY ASSESSMENT, I RECOMMENDED WE
FIRST SEEK TO SET THE COURSE OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL,
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ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO-LED GOVERNMENT

AFTER INDEPENDENCE ON JUNE 25, BEFORE RE-RAISING ISSUE OF DESTROYER VISITS.

3. REFS D AND E SUGGESTED EMBASSY LISBON ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO'S CLAIM THAT PRIME MINISTER CHISSANO REVERSED HIMSELF AND GRANTED CLEARANCE FOR U.S. DESTROYER VISIT IN EARLY FEBRUARY. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED INFORMATION WHICH WOULD INDICATE THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ANY RECORD OF MTG REVERSING ITSELF AND GIVING APPROVAL FOR THAT VISIT (REFS D AND E). THUS, AS FAR AS RECORD STANDS, VISIT WAS TURNED DOWN BY PRIME MINISTER CHISSANO ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD BE "MISINTERPRETED" BY "AFRICAN AND OTHER" COUNTRIES, OR IN PORTUGUESE FON OFF NOTE'S WORDS, "IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL SPECULATION".

4. IF APPROACHED BY HIGH COMMISSIONER WITH YET ANOTHER REQUEST FOR A U.S. DESTROYER VISIT PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, I BELIEVE CHISSANO WOULD TAKE EXACTLY THE SAME POSITION AS HE DID ON PREVIOUS OCCASION. HE IS TERRIBLY PREOCCUPIED WITH MYRIAD VITAL ISSUES IN ESTABLISHING NEW GOVERNMENT AND WE ARE STILL AWAITING ANSWER ON ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM. SECOND TURNDOWN, IN MY ESTIMATION, WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE, AS IT COULD JEOPARDIZE ENTIRE FUTURE OF U.S. NAVAL VISITS TO LOURENCO MARQUES FOR SOME TIME TO COME WHEN WE MIGHT WELL GET FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT ONCE IT BECOMES INDEPENDENT AND DOES NOT HAVE TO ACT THROUGH PORTUGAL. WALKER

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